

[CT] AC 4471 (D) HARTLEPOOL

*Putnam*

BOROUGH OF HARTLEPOOL.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER,

FOR THE YEAR 1917,

BY

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OF THE MIDDLE TEMPLE, BARRISTER-AT-LAW.



# School Medical Officer's Report,

## 1917.

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### SECTION II.—General.

The Schools in the Borough of Hartlepool are ten in number, five being Provided Schools and five Non-provided.

#### 1. Provided Schools.

Name of School.	Departments.	Accommodation.	Average Attendance.
Church Close	B., G., Infants.	738	525
Throston	„ „ „	839	553
Hart Road	„ „ „	723	455
Baltic Street	„ „ „	722	559
Galley's Field	Boys, Girls,	714	567

#### 2. Non-Provided Schools.

Middleton St. John's	Mixed, Infants.	232	170
St. Bega's R.C.	„ „	409	348
St. Mary's R.C.	„ and „	210	121
Ann Crooke's	Boys	144	123
Prissick	Infants	194	147
		<hr style="width: 100px; margin: 0 auto;"/> 4,925	<hr style="width: 100px; margin: 0 auto;"/> 3,568

The heating of Hart Road Temporary Infants' School having been found insufficient, two new stoves were introduced towards the end of the year with satisfactory results.

Two Schools were closed during the year on account of epidemic disease, namely :—Middleton Infants' School through measles, and Hart Road Temporary Infants' School through whooping cough and measles.

## SECTION II.—Medical Inspection.

During 1917, 71 visits were paid to schools for the purpose of medical inspection compared with 60 in 1916, and 49 visits were paid for the purpose of re-inspecting children found to be defective at the ordinary inspection, as compared with 38 in 1916.

The number of children examined was 1,231—34 per cent. of the average number of children attending school. The following figures shew the distribution of the children in the various classes:—

		BOYS.		GIRLS.		TOTAL.
Entrants	...	188	...	188	...	376
Leavers	...	223	...	187	...	410
Eight years	...	221	...	203	...	424
Specials	...	14	...	7	...	21
		<hr/> 646		<hr/> 685		<hr/> 1,231

The following table gives the height and weight for boys and girls at the different ages, and contrasts the results obtained for Hartlepool with those of England generally.

### BOYS.

		Height in Inches		Weight in Pounds	
Age	Numbers Examined	Hartlepool	England	Hartlepool	England
5	179	39·5	40·7	38·6	38·6
6	8	42·6	43·0	46·8	42·2
8	221	45·9	47·4	50·6	52·0
12	195	51·7	55·1	69·1	72·7
13	28	55·3	56·0	75·3	77·4

### GIRLS.

5	181	39·7	40·4	39·6	37·7
6	7	41·0	42·5	40·2	41·2
8	203	44·5	46·9	49·8	49·5
12	183	55·4	54·7	71·4	72·7
13	4	58·0	56·8	88·0	80·3



### Clothing.

In many cases the clothing was found to be unsatisfactory, being dirty, ragged, or insufficient, or usually a combination of these defects. Of 1,210 entrants, leavers and 8 years old, the clothing was unsatisfactory in 55 cases, or 4·5 per cent. This however is an improvement on the previous year, when the percentage of defective clothing was 7·4.

### Footgear.

This was found to be unsatisfactory in 54 cases, namely 12 in entrants, 20 in leavers, and 22 in the intermediate group—that is 4·4 per cent. of the children examined, as compared with 8·5 per cent. last year. The rule against admitting barefooted children to school has had a most beneficial effect, and it is only rarely now that such cases have to be dealt with.

### Cleanliness of the Head and Body.

	Entrants	Leavers	8 years	Total
Nits present ...	40 (10·6%)	67 (16·3%)	58 (13·6%)	165 (13·6%)
Pediculi present in hair	4 (1·0 „)	1 (·2 „)	2 (·4 „)	7 (·5 „)
Body dirt ...	10 (2·6 „)	46 (11·2 „)	42 (9·9 „)	98 (8·1 „)
Pediculi present on body	10 (2·6 „)	13 (3·1 „)	9 (2·1 „)	32 (2·6 „)

In 1916 the percentage of children with nits present in the hair was 20·1, and with pediculi in the hair 1·1, so that there has been a decided improvement during the year.

The School Nurses carried out quarterly head-to-head inspection of girls, with the following result :—

	Number Examined		Notices Sent	
1st Quarter	...	1,622	...	427
2nd „	...	1,687	...	339
3rd „	...	1,711	...	303
4th „	...	1,598	...	251

### Inspection Clinic.

451 children attended, as compared with 359 in 1916. Many of these children are sent to the Clinic by teachers, School Nurses, and Attendance Officers, but other children are brought by their parents for examination. The usefulness of the Clinic is proved by the steadily increasing numbers, year by year.



The following table shows the great variety of cases attending the Inspection Clinic:—

Disease or Condition			Number of Cases
No Boots	...	...	30
Dirt and Neglect	...	...	11
Vermin (Head)	...	...	38
„ (Body)	...	...	11
Itch	...	...	41
Boils, Abscesses, &c.	...	...	61
Vision Testing	...	...	19
External Eye Diseases	...	...	29
Ear Diseases	...	...	10
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	...	...	13
Sore Throat	...	...	14
Stomatitis	...	...	4
Enlarged Glands	...	...	4
Gastritis	...	...	7
Rheumatism	...	...	5
Heart Disease	...	...	2
Anæmia	...	...	18
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	...	...	9
„ (Non-Pulmonary)	...	...	24
Whooping Cough	...	...	3
Chicken-pox	...	...	3
Examination after Infectious Disease before re-admission to School	...	...	12
Injuries	...	...	25
Miscellaneous (Irregular Attenders, &c.)	...	...	58
			<hr/> 451

### Children Excluded from School under Article 53 (b.)

During the year 423 children were excluded. In 1916 276 children were excluded. The average exclusion for the last three years has been 380,

Reason for Exclusion			Number of Children
No Boots	...	...	53
Dirt and Neglect	...	...	2
Vermin (Head)	...	...	24
„ (Body)	...	...	15
Skin Diseases	...	...	35
Eye (Injuries and Diseases)	...	...	28
Miscellaneous	...	...	46

**Infectious Diseases.**

Scarlet Fever	3	Contacts	6	...	9
Diphtheria	3	„	2	...	5
Measles	81	„	69	..	150
Enteric Fever		„	2	...	2
Whooping Cough	18		...	...	18
Chicken-pox	12		...	...	12
Mumps	2		...	...	2
Tuberculosis					
(Pulmonary)	6		...	...	6
Tuberculosis					
(Non-Pulmonary)	16		...	...	16
					— — 220
					— —
					423

**Attendance Visits** are paid by the School Nurses to cases reported by the School Wardens. In these cases, if the information obtained at the home is unsatisfactory, the child is directed to attend at the Inspection Clinic for examination.

During the year 210 of these visits were paid.

**SECTION III.—Treatment.**

The percentage of children receiving treatment has again been satisfactory, being 72. The results will shew further improvement when the Eye Clinic has overtaken the arrears of cases of the past year or two. The number treated at the School Clinic are somewhat diminished due fortunately to the epidemic of ophthalmia being checked.

**Following-up Visits** have been paid by the School Nurses where necessary, the numbers amounting to 620.

**SCHOOL CLINIC.**

1917 was the second year of the School Clinic, 601 children being treated as compared with 749 in 1916. The Centre fulfils a most useful purpose, as without it many children would secure little or no treatment for diseases of the skin, eyes and ears, or for minor injuries such as bruises, etc.

**Diseases met with at Treatment Clinic.**

	Cured.	Under Treatment	Total.
Impetigo ... ..	311	22	333
Ringworm (Head) ... ..	15	5	20
„ (Body) ... ..	14	3	17
Itch ... ..	35	18	53
Boils and Abscesses ... ..	21	6	27
Skin (other conditions) ... ..	22	2	24
Ophthalmia ... ..	32	1	33
Blepharitis ... ..	16	—	16
Eye (other conditions) ... ..	8	1	9
Ear Discharge ... ..	26	4	30
Wounds, Burns and Scalds ... ..	28	2	30
Miscellaneous ... ..	9	—	9
	<hr/> 337	<hr/> 64	<hr/> 601

**EYE CLINIC.**

This was opened in January. For the first six months sessions of one hour each were held fortnightly, but for the second six months, when the unavoidable delays in obtaining the apparatus, occasioned by the war, had been overcome, sessions were held weekly.

Dr. Foster, School Ophthalmic Surgeon reports:—

“108 cases were examined by retinoscopy. The nature of the refractive errors is as follows:—

Hypermetropia ... ..	46 cases.
Simple Hypermetropic Astigmatism	15 „
Compound „ „	15 „
Myopia ... ..	12 „
Simple Myopic Astigmatism ... ..	6 „
Mixed Astigmatism ... ..	1 „
	<hr/> 108

A small number of external eye diseases have been treated, and some of these, which proved difficult of cure, sent to Hospital.

The difficulties with the parents, owing to their not understanding the nature of the effort made on their behalf, have been considerable. There can be no doubt whatever that these difficulties are becoming less apparent, and it may be confidently asserted will quite disappear in the course of the next year or two, when the good results of the work become manifest, even to the most perverse.”



## SECTION IV.—Supplementary Work.

The only work falling to be recorded under this section is the examination of young people desirous of appointment as pupil teachers. Eight girls were examined. Two girls were found to be suffering from defective eyesight and decayed teeth, and were instructed to receive the necessary attention.

The candidates otherwise were sound and in good health.



**TABLE I.**

Number of Children Inspected 1st January, 1917, to 31st December, 1917.

**A "Code" Groups.**

Age	ENTRANTS							Inter- mediate Group	LEAVERS				Grand Total
	3	4	5	6	Other Ages		Total		12	13	14	Total	
Boys ...	...	...	179	8	1	188	221	195	28		223	632	
Girls ...	...	...	181	7	...	188	203	183	4		187	578	
Totals...	...	...	360	15	1	376	424	378	32		410	1,210	

**B. Groups other than "Code."**

(1)	Intermediate Group (other than 8 years) (2)	Special Cases (3)	Re-Examinations (i.e., Number of Children Re-Examined) (4)
Boys ...	.	14	241
Girls ...		7	273
Totals...		21	514

## Abbreviated Form of Table II.

Return of Defects found in the course of Medical Inspection.

Defect or Disease				Code Groups		Specials	
				Number referred for treatment	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment	Number referred for treatment	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment
(1)				(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Skin	Malnutrition	...	...	5	...	...	10
	Uncleanliness :						
	Head	...	...	80	...	...	...
	Body	...	...	33	...	...	...
	Ringworm :						
	Head	...	...	6	...	1	...
	Body	...	...	1	...	...	...
	Scabies	...	...	15	...	...	...
	Impetigo	...	...	12	...	...	...
	Other Diseases	...	...	10	...	...	...
Eye	Defective Vision and Squint	...	...	142	10	10	5
	External Eye Disease	...	...	12	...	...	...
Ear	Defective Hearing	...	...	...	4	...	...
	Ear Disease	...	...	9	...	...	...
Teeth	Dental Disease	...	...	20	...	...	...
Nose and Throat	Enlarged Tonsils	...	...	4	3	...	1
	Adenoids	...	...	6	...	...	...
	Enlarged Tonsils & Adenoids	...	...	7	...	...	...
	Defective Speech	...	...	...	1	...	...
Heart and Circulation	Heart Disease :						
	Organic	...	...	2	...	...	...
	Functional	...	...	2	2	...	...
	Anæmia	...	...	1	...	...	...
Lungs	Pulmonary Tuberculosis :						
	Definite	...	...	1	...	...	...
	Suspected	...	...	...	2	...	...
	Chronic Bronchitis	...	...	3	...	...	...
	Other Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nervous System	Epilepsy	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Chorea	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other Disease	...	...	...	4	...	...
	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis:						
	Glands	...	...	2	...	1	...
	Bones and Joints	...	...	1	...	...	...
	Other Forms	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Rickets	...	...	12	4	1	...
	Deformities	...	...	11	3	1	...
	Other Defects or Diseases	...	...	2	3	...	...

**TABLE III.**

Numerical Return of all Exceptional Children in area.

Boys Girls Total

BLIND (including partially Blind)		Attending Public Elementary Schools ... ..			
		Attending Certified Schools for the Blind .. ...			
		Not at School ... ..	I		I
DEAF AND DUMB (including partially Deaf)		Attending Public Elementary Schools ... ..		I	I
		Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf ... ..			
		Not at School ... ..	I		I
MENTALLY DEFECTIVE	Feeble Minded	Attending Public Elementary Schools ... ..	6	7	13
		Attending Certified Schools for mentally defective children Notified to the Local (Control) Authority during the year			
		Not at School .. ...			
	Imbeciles	At School ... ..			
		Not at School ... ..	2		2
	Idiots				
EPILEPTICS		Attending Public Elementary Schools ... ..	I	1	2
		Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics ... ..			
		Not at School ... ..			
PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools ... ..			
		Attending Certified Schools for physically defective Child'n			
		Not at School ... ..	2	2	4
	Other forms of Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools ... ..			
		Attending Certified Schools for physically defective Child'n			
		Not at School ... ..	5	7	12
	Cripples other than Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools ... ..	I		I
		Attending Certified Schools for physically defective Child'n			
		Not at School ... ..	5	2	7
Dull or backward* }		Retarded 2 years ... ..	57	109	166
		„ 3 years ... ..	18	4	22

\* Judged according to Age and Standard.

TABLE IV.—Treatment of Defects of Children during 1917.

Condition	No. of Defects found for which Treatment was considered necessary			Number of Defects for which no Report is available	No. of Defects Treated	Results of Treatment			No. of Defects not treated	Per-centage of Defects Treated
	From previous year	New	Total			Remedied	Improved	Unchang'd		
Clothing	1	7	8	...	8	4	4	...	...	100.0
Footgear	1	18	19	...	19	17	2	...	...	100.0
Cleanliness of Head	13	80	93	...	93	71	22	...	...	100.0
Cleanliness of Body	4	33	37	...	37	31	6	...	...	100.0
Nutrition	...	5	5	...	4	...	4	...	1	80.0
Nose and Throat...	29	17	46	2	32	30	2	...	12	69.5
External Eye Disease	1	12	13	...	13	7	6	...	...	100.0
Ear Disease	1	9	10	...	10	3	4	3	...	100.0
Teeth	16	20	36	2	24	19	3	2	10	66.6
Heart and Circulation	1	5	6	...	5	...	5	...	1	83.3
Lungs	...	4	4	...	4	2	2	...	...	100.0
Nervous System	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Skin	1	42	43	...	43	39	4	...	...	100.0
Rickets	3	13	16	1	12	3	9	...	3	75.0
Deformities	3	12	15	1	11	4	7	...	3	73.3
Tuberculosis (non-pulmonary)	...	4	4	...	4	4	...	...	...	100.0
Speech	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mental Condition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Vision and Squint	99	152	251	30	120	115	5	...	101	47.7
Hearing	2	...	2	...	2	...	2	...	...	100.0
Miscellaneous	...	2	2	...	2	2	...	...	...	100.0
TOTAL	175	435	610	36	443	351	87	5	131	72.6



**TABLE V.**

(1)	The total number of Children medically inspected (whether Code Group, special or ailing child) ...	1,251
(2)	The number of Children in (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanliness or defective clothing or footgear) who require to be kept under observation (but not referred for treatment) ...	52
(3)	The number of children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, &c.) ...	285
(4)	The number of Children in (3) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, &c.) ...	133





